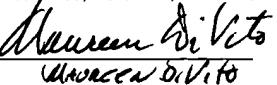




I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to:
MS RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: September 2, 2005 Signature: 
Maureen Di Vito

Docket No.: 0047508.00423US2
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:-
Wenquiang ZHAO et al.

Application No.: 09/283431

Confirmation No.: 9888

Filed: April 1, 1999

Art Unit: 1635

For: MIXED-BACKBONE OLIGONUCLEOTIDES
CONTAINING POPS BLOCKS TO OBTAIN
REDUCED PHOSPHOROTHIOATE
CONTENT

Examiner: K. A. Lacourciere

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

MS RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicant hereby petitions for a three month extension of time to and including September 2, 2005 to respond to the Office Action mailed March 2, 2005.

This petition is being filed in order to ensure copendency with application being filed concurrently herewith.

In the event that a further petition for an extension of time is required to be submitted at this time, applicant hereby petitions under 37 CFR 1.136(a) for an extension of time for as many months as are required to ensure that the above-identified application does not become abandoned.

Please charge our Deposit Account No. 08-0219 in the amount of \$1,230.00 covering the fees set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(a)(3), 1.17(e), and 1.16(i). The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit

09/08/2005 MAHMEDI 00000048 080219 09283431

02 FC:2253 510.00 DA



Account No. 08-0219, under Order No. 0047508.00423US2. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Dated: September 2, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

James T. Olesen

Registration No.: 46,967

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